Quillan, six a.m.

I have taken my three companions to the station; the *sky* is purer and silkier than ever. A laughing mystery floats under the avenue of plane trees, a light dust imitating a fog. Alibert will not come for me until eight o'clock. Yesterday he left me his manuscript, which I shall read while waiting for him. His verses fill and sustain my joy. Is our trip already over? How fast I should walk! How high I should climb, this morning!

<cWhy yes, of course, I can appreciate delicacy too/* Georges protested when I reproached him with being sensitive only to bad smells. "For instance, take Aunt Desmarest; I realize that she often said charming things. One day, for example, the whole family except for her and me had gone on a picnic to Etretat; as they left they had carefully recommended us not to let Mirza out because she was in heat. As soon as the carriage was out of sight. Aunt turned toward me. "Oh!" she said, "we might as well let her out all the same/*

ls that," I asked, "what you call a charming thing? . . /

TBut why did she say it?" Em. asked.

And Georges, almost getting angry:

"How should I know?" And he added: "Out of senility!"

17 October

Certain days my mind, like my body, suffers from every contact.

A smile or a remark is enough to hurt me. Everything I do or say seems wrong to me. In Riviere's letter this morning this sentence: *Tfou are not loved at *Paris-Journal?* was enough to poison my whole morning.

I fear I shall soon have to struggle against a false image of me that is being built up, a monster to which my name is given, which occupies my place, and which is temfyingly ugly and stupid.

The fundamental disloyalty of certain critics.

20 October

Yesterday, opened by chance *VAppel au* sok&z£[28] — with great admiration, but with a touch of the feeling that, as a child, I had in contact with certain books that I felt to be written "for grown-ups.'*

This morning an article by Tancrede de Visan on *"Andr£ Gide et le lyrisme contemporairi** that is a tonic,[29]

[28] *The Call to Arms,* one of Maurice Baufe's "Novels of National Energy/' first published in 1900.

[23] Visan's enthusiastic study of "Andr6 Gide and Contemporary Lyricism" was reprinted in 1911 in his book: *L* Attitude*